

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077783

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DRAFTED EB:NLPAZDRAL:LMP

APPROVED BY EB:NLPAZDRAL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077783

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM TOKYO APR 4

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4425

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN JA

SUBJ: ECONCOM X: DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ ON TIMING

REF: STATE 076167

1. WE MET WITH FUKADA (DEPUTY DG, AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONOFF) APRIL 4 TO SEEK CONFIRMATION THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AGREED, IN LIGHT EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF ECONCOM SCHEDULING LAST WEEK IN U.S. DURING PLANNING TALKS, THAT HEAVY SCHEDULE OF VISITS OBLIGES NEED FOR ECONCOM AT THIS TIME. FUKADA NOTED HE HAD SPOKEN WITH YOSHINA SHORTLY BEFORE OUR CALL AND HAD WITH HIM REPORT ON DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER IN US.

2. FUKADA SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING. JAPANESE REPS DURING BREAK AT PLANNING TALKS WERE EXPRESSING PURELY PERSONAL VIEWS AS THEY HAD NO AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE OFFICIAL POSITION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AS CONVEYED TO AMB HODGSON BY MIYAZAWA MARCH 18.  
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PAGE 02 STATE 077783

FUKADA SAID WE BOTH SEEMED TO BE FACED WITH AN

AWKWARD SITUATION BUT ONE WHICH SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE. GOJ POSITION ALL ALONG HAS BEEN THAT INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM US SIDE AS SCHEDULED HOST COUNTRY FOR ECONCOM X. MEETING CLEARLY CANNOT TAKE PLACE IF DATE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES CANNOT BE WORKED OUT. GOJ WOULD CERTAINLY NOT PRESS US TO CONVENE ECONCOM AT ANY PARTICULAR DATE IF US CONSIDERED THERE WERE GOOD REASONS FOR NOT SCHEDULING AT THIS TIME.

3. ONLY PROBLEM FUKADA ANTICIPATED WAS HOW MIYAZAWA WOULD HANDLE JAPANESE PRESS WHEN WORD THAT ECONCOM IS OFF FOR TIME BEING BECOMES PUBLIC. FUKADA SAID MIYAZAWA IS A BIT OUT ON LIMB HAVING TOLD PRESS GOJ FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD ECONCOM IN EARLY FALL IN RESPONSE US INQUIRY WHETHER GOJ WOULD FIND THIS CONVENIENT. PERSISTENT JAPANESE PRESS CORPS LIKELY TO PROBE FOR EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED IN PAST FEW WEEKS TO CHANGE SITUATION SINCE PATTERN OF PROSPECTIVE JAPANESE VISITS TO US AND ABSENCE OF SERIOUS US-JAPAN BILATERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WERE PRETTY WELL KNOWN IN MID-MARCH. WE RESPONDED TO THIS BY CONFIRMING THAT OUR PRESENTATION TODAY WAS BASED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER VIEWS ON ECONCOM

4. FUKADA SAID MIYAZAWA WOULD BE BRIEFED ON SITUATION APRIL 5 AS PART OF PREPARATION FOR HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. MEETING ENDED CORDIALLY WITH FUKADA ASSURING US THIS WAS NOT RPT NOT A BIG PROBLEM.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BE HANDLED WITHOUT DIFFICULTY NEXT WEEK. IF SECRETARY TAKES LEAD IN SUGGESTING REALISTIC LOOK AT NUMBER OF VISITS INDICATES CIRCUIT IS OVERLOADED FOR FALL, WE BELIEVE MIYAZAWA WILL QUICKLY AGREE.  
SHOESMITH  
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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